

TO: FINtestimony@cga.ct.gov
FROM: Caroline Sloat, PO Box 58, Thompson CT
Date: March 4, 2015

I write to respectfully request reconsideration of the governor's proposed elimination of CIA. Proven since 2006 to be a job-producer, it fulfills its mission to "protect and preserve the beauty and unique character of the state for future generations through a designated funding stream."

The fee supports the members of the Community Investment Act Coalition: Open Space, Agriculture, and Affordable Housing.

Under the CIA, a \$40 recording fee is collected on every real-estate transaction. The fees are then distributed in support of 1. historic preservation, 2. protecting open spaces, 3. preserving farmland, and 4. creating affordable housing. Every community in Connecticut has benefited from CIA funds in some way. Since the Act's inception in 2006, more than \$133 million has been given back to 165 Connecticut towns, creating some 4,000 jobs in the process. For a modest fee on a real-estate transaction--the purchaser makes a significant contribution to the character of their chosen community and state.

As a trustee of the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, I see first-hand how the programs created with CIA funds are distributed to benefit our community partners. City halls, churches, historical societies, barns, factory buildings--these are examples of the types of structures that look better and can continue to function safely and productively thanks to carefully developed grant applications and work of a high standard conducted with those funds. For a relatively small investment the historic character of our communities is being maintained. Among other benefits, this helps make the study of history relevant to millions of school students in Connecticut. Historic sites and environments are all around us. "Old" can and does mean attractive and appropriately maintained, thanks in part to CIA funds.

For the Trust, raiding the recording fees for funds to balance the budget means no money for restoration grants, technical assistance, condition assessments and feasibility studies, our field service program, and more.

I urge you to reconsider and find a different source of funds to balance the state budget between now and 2017.

Sincerely,

Caroline Sloat (cfsloat@charter.net)